

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 00299 141231Z
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 IO-13 L-03 DLOS-06 H-01
DOTE-00 EPA-01 CEQ-01 SP-02 SS-15 FEA-01 AID-05
CIAE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSF-01 NSC-05
NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06 INT-05 FMC-01 SAL-01 CG-00 /107 W
-----141235Z 041657 /20

R 141141Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4438

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, EWWT, IMCO, IS
SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF 1969 AMENDMENTS TO 1954 CONVENTION
FOR PREVENTION OF POLLUTION OF SEA BY OIL

REF: STATE 6120

1. SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL HAS BEEN CONVEYED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY (DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS ELRON) AND TO MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT (LEGAL ADVISOR MINTZ). IN RESPONSE, THEY EXPLAINED THAT ISRAEL DECLINED TO ACCEPT THE 1969 AMENDMENTS TO THE 1954 CONVENTION BECAUSE, AFTER STUDY OF THE AMENDMENTS BY A "COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS," IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT THE AMENDMENTS WOULD REPRESENT A WEAKENING OF THE 1954 CONVENTION. THE PROBLEM, THEY SAID, IS THAT THE AMENDMENTS DROP THE PARAGRAPH DEALING WITH "CLOSED SEAS" AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE PROVISION EXPRESSLY PROHIBITING DISCHARGES WITHIN 100 MILES OF THE COAST. ISRAELIS THUS DISAGREE WITH THE U.S. VIEW (PARA 2 OF REFTEL) THAT THE AMENDMENTS REPRESENT A STRENGTHENING OF THE 1954 CONVENTION AND MUCH PREFER TO PUSH AHEAD WITH THE 1973 CONVENTION.

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 00299 141231Z

2. THESE OFFICIALS NOTED THAT ISRAEL AT PRESENT HAS A SERIOUS PROBLEM OF OIL POLLUTION OF ITS BEACHES. ISRAELI STUDIES HAVE FOUND THAT MOST OF THE DISCHARGES TAKE PLACE WITHIN 100 MILES OF THE ISRAELI COAST, MANY BY TANKERS DUMPING BALLAST BEFORE TAKING ON CRUDE AT THE ASHKELON PIPELINE TERMINAL. THEY THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT ELIMINATION OF THE 100 MILES PROVISION WOULD UNDERMINE PRESENT

EFFORTS TO CONTROL THIS POLLUTION. MINTZ SAID THAT AT PRESENT HIS OFFICE HANDLES ABOUT 60 PROSECUTIONS PER YEAR OF SHIPS CAUGHT DISCHARGING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE GULF OF EILAT.

3. BOTH ELRON AND MINTZ ASSURED US THAT IF USG CONSIDERED ISRAELI ACCEPTANCE ESSENTIAL TO BRING THE 1969 AMENDMENTS INTO FORCE THEY WOULD HAVE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE MATTER TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE. HOWEVER, THEY POINTED OUT THAT FAVORABLE ACTION MIGHT BE DIFFICULT SINCE IT WOULD BE AGAINST THE TECHNICAL ADVICE OF ISRAELI EXPERTS.

4. COMMENT: GIVEN THE ISRAELI ATTITUDE ON THIS QUESTION AND THE FACT THAT A DECISION IN ANY EVENT WOULD BE DIFFICULT BEFORE THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS IN MAY, WE SEE LIRCO LLRRCWXELUGYNG THE MATTER FURTHER WITH THE ISRAELIS AT THIS TIME. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE PROSPECTS ARE MUCH BETTER OF OBTAINING THE ADDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE NEEDED FROM ONE OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES MENTIONED IN REFTEL.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLLUTION CONTROL, AMENDMENTS, OIL SPILLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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